January 1943

Dean Chas. M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

Committee on the Adjustment of Business to War Conditions

Retailers' Clinics

Late in January Mr. Lawyer, who has charge of the Committee's activities in assisting retailers to solve problems brought about through manpower depletion and through price ceilings, and rationing regulations, held five retailers' clinics -- Effingham, East St. Louis, Hillsboro, Nokomis, and Litchfield. Unlike the clinics held prior to the holidays, these clinics dealt primarily with personnel problems and with the efforts on the part of retailers to restock their shelves.

The outstanding characteristic of these clinics was the interest shown by those in attendance -- an interest reflected in the questions asked and in the answers provided by fellow merchants. Then, too, the attendance merits notice. These five meetings attracted an estimated attendance of six hundred from approximately seventy communities.

It should be said in this connection that the essay contest authorized by the Council is going forward. Within a short time every high school in the State will be acquainted with details concerning this contest.

Small Manufacturers

Mr. Beshers has continued his practice of accepting invitations from the manufacturers of the State to visit their plants and to advise with them on a variety of problems. In addition to these duties he assisted with the synthetic rubber program sponsored by Governor Green, and prepared further evidence for the Murray Committee.

General

The Chairman of the Council Committee continued his efforts to carry to the people of the State his ideas concerning some of the vital problems facing them. To that end he addressed four high school assemblies, two service clubs, and two Chamber of Commerce meetings. Time consuming, too, was his effort to be helpful in solving business problems about the conference table. Twelve times during the month of January the Chairman met with business groups in an attempt to arrive at such solutions.

February, 1943

Dean Chas. M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

COMMITTEE ON ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS

General Statement

The activities of the Committee were stepped up all along the line except in the matter of civilian production. More meetings were held and a greater number of persons contacted. Inquiries coming to the Committee exceeded those of any previous month. Viewed from any angle, the services rendered by the Committee were well worth while.

Civilian Production

Mr. Beshers devoted the greater part of the month to assisting the Chairman of the Committee in his efforts to secure synthetic rubber plants for the State. In rendering that assistance he attended a meeting in Chicago, interviewed numerous persons within the State, and made two trips to points outside the State.

The newspapers now carry stories concerning the anxiety of Governmental officials over what appears to be a shortage in civilian production. This anxiety, granting its sincerity, is months behind the anxiety expressed by Mr. Beshers and others associated with the Committee in their public contacts in two hundred communities of the State, since April of last year. This situation is being made a matter of record, but not in any "I told you so" attitude; rather, it is to keep the record straight.

War Production

Like civilian production, war production in small plants appears to have at last been recognized as vital in an all-out war effort. Here, again, the public press carries stories of the agonizing in Washington over the plight of the small manufacturer equipped to engage directly in making munitions of war. Also, the same press make public the utterances of officials concerning their great desire to see to it that prime, as well as sub, contracts be awarded to these small manufacturers. Despite these agonizings and these utterances, little of a concrete nature is being done, if what we can see and hear can be trusted.

Merchandising

Mr. Lawyer, assisted by Mr. Joseph T. Meek and Mr. Charles Barker, of the Illinois Federation of Retail Associations, and by Mr. Bruce Gray, of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, has held numerous retail clinics during the month. The clinics held prior to the holidays stressed the Federal regulations imposed

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on retailers; since the holidays the stress has been on ways and means of carrying on operations that permit retailers to survive the emergency. Chief topics of discussion are rationing, inventory control, victory tax, scarcity of goods, and personnel.

Main Power

The Chairman of the Committee devoted the major portion of his time to stimulating interest in the need for man power. To that end he addressed high school groups, teachers groups, and groups composed of employers and potential employees. His work fitted into the nationwide scheme to mobilize civilian for home front "jobs" not directly connected with fighting or producing the implements of war.

The Essay Contest authorized by the Council was publicized during the month. Printed notice of the contest was sent to newspapers and to every high school in the State. It is too early yet to report on the response.

March 1943

Dean Chas. M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

COMMITTEE ON ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS

RETAIL CLINICS

During the month Mr. Lawyer held eleven clinics for retailers at the following places:

Belleville	Bloomington	Englewood
Harvard	Kankakee	LaSalle
Macomb	Mattoon	Pana
Paris		Peoria

The programs carried out in each clinic stressed the problems of personnel and of inventories. Assisting were Joseph T. Meek and Charles Barker, of the Illinois Federation of Retail Associations, and Bruce Gray, of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

TRANSPORTATION

Following the March meeting of the Council Mr. Beshers and Mr. Sadorus arranged with the authorities in fourteen communities to provide local transportation of a sporadic nature. These communities are:

Effingham	Shelbyville	Mattoon	Charleston	Newton
Olney	Flora	Salem	Centralia	Vandalia
Taylorville	Pana		Louisville	Fairfield

Just how successful this plan is working, the Chairman is unable to say at this moment. Another month will give us some notion of whether to proceed or to drop the matter.

MANPOWER PROBLEM

The Chairman of the Committee devoted the major portion of his time during the month to the problem of manpower. He spoke to ten groups, including three large high schools, these groups aggregating seven thousand in attendance.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

A large variety of interests made demands on the Chairman. In addition to the above he visited twelve communities, at the requests of citizens there, to discuss such problems as manpower, transportation, and priorities.

Two meetings merit particular attention. One was held under the auspices of the State Tax Commission; the other, a conference on Highway Engineering.

The first meeting gave the Chairman the opportunity to speak on the subject of post-war planning for Illinois industry, pointing out the vital need for developing industries capable of paying taxes. The subject discussed at the Highway meeting dealt with the need for synthetic rubber and the opportunities for its production in Illinois.

April 1943

Dean Chas. M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

COMMITTEE ON ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS

Accompanying this report is a statement by Mr. Beshers concerning his work as Coordinator of Civilian Production, in doing what he can to help solve the transportation problem.

Mr. Lawyer devoted such time as he could spare from his regular University work to advising retailers and retailer groups. During the second half of the month he examined the more than seven hundred essays submitted by high school pupils preparatory to having a committee of school men and business men pass on them for the purpose of awarding prizes. Announcement of winners will be made early in May, and a little later awards will be made.

During the month the Chairman of the Committee spoke to seventeen public groups. Of the seventeen two were Statewide in character, eight were local, and seven were composed of high school pupils. Altogether, he addressed approximately ten thousand persons. In addition, he conferred with seven business groups on problems of retailing and production.

It may not be out of place at this time to say that in all probability the general work of this Committee is about at an end. Here and there are functions that might very well be carried on for a while longer, but these could be taken over by other committees of the Council or passed along to what it is hoped will be a group to study post-war conditions.

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION

Submitted by --- Paul C. Beshers
Coordinator, Civilian Production
Committee on Adjustment of Business to
War Conditions

People are able to multiply their efforts by two methods: transportation and communication. We have today an apparent manpower shortage. We must, therefore, use every means at our command to multiply the efforts of each individual. The "means" that this report concerns is the means of transportation.

(continued)

The transportation of persons in the "share the ride" program falls into two quite definite parts. These parts are, first, the condition in which the people of a given community can share rides to a common destination and return to that community using the same vehicle for both the outgoing and return trip. This type of sharing can be accomplished thru a clearing house and can be very much on the sharing basis; that is, one person in the group using his car for one trip, another person using his car for the following trip, etc.

The other part is what may be called "occasional transportation," where the party driving the vehicle and the party seeking a ride do not necessarily come from the same community, nor do they have the same destination. The average number of occupants of vehicles now on the road in intracity travel is about one and three-tenths persons. It is quite obvious that there is an enormous amount of transportation here available if only possible to get those people who would like to travel in contact with those persons who could offer transportation.

The success of this program depends upon the following factors. These factors have been determined by study over the last four weeks of an experimental arrangement in the south central part of the State.

The first factor, and the one which seems of major importance, is that the sharing of the ride must be made somehow advantageous to both parties. In order to do that there must be some sort of compensation for the operator of the vehicle in order to induce him to offer the transportation.

The second problem is overcoming the difficulty of bringing the two parties together. The best solution seems to be the establishment of stations along the highways where the passenger may present himself in search of transportation. These stations should be designated by some method, a sign or banner which can be quickly noticed by motorists driving down the road. The major portion of the effort necessary to obtain a ride in this way must be put forth by the passenger. The use of many types of businesses as stations have been tried in this experiment. So far, three types stand out as the best locations, -- filling stations, lunch rooms, and drug stores.

With Statewide publicity and some effort spent by local organizations who would determine the best places or locations for such stations in their communities, the design and use of a universal sign to indicate such locations would assist in their usefulness.

With what has been learned up to the present time, I believe that this system could be put in operation in the State of Illinois and have it functioning completely in about two months time.

May 1943

Dean Chas. M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

COMMITTEE ON ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS

The activities of the Committee for the month of May concerned themselves largely with (1) civilian production, (2) transportation, and (3) manpower.

Mr. Beshers spent his time visiting among civilian producers, helping in every way possible to solve civilian production problems. In addition to this work he assisted in the organization of community efforts to ease the occasional transportation problem.

Mr. Lawyer and the Chairman of the Committee devoted their energies to the manpower problem as it affects community life. Mr. Lawyer saw to the ranking of the essays submitted in the contest authorized by the Council, and later he visited several high schools in order to make personal presentation of prizes. The Chairman, in addition to presenting in person the first prize and the four second prizes, addressed fifteen high school assemblies on the general subject of manpower and ten other meetings on a variety of subjects, all relating to the war effort and what the Council is doing to help this effort. The aggregate attendance at these meetings was approximately twelve thousand.

Something might be said at this point concerning the retail situation. The merchants of the State are becoming more and more confused over regulations, and they are manifesting their confusion by directing a wide variety of inquiries to the Committee on the Adjustment of Business to War Conditions. Mr. Lawyer is doing what he can to answer these inquiries, but it seems likely that soon even that service will have to be discontinued because of the inability on his part to handle the situation.

ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS COMMITTEE

Dean Charles M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Governor Hugh W. Cross
Stuart Duncan

REPORT FOR JUNE, 1943

The activities of the Committee for the month of June were confined in the main to (1) the encouragement of civilian production, (2) the laying of plans for merchants-consumers meetings, and (3) general meetings addressed by the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Beshers spent his time among the small manufacturers of the State and with a sub-committee of the National House of Representatives hearing testimony on the oil situation in Illinois.

In doing this he called on manufacturers and attended committee hearings in Evansville (Indiana) and Decatur.

Mr. Lawyer held several meetings with representative merchants to discuss with them the desirability of calling joint meetings of merchants and consumers in order to discuss their relationships as buyers and sellers. Also, he set up a conference of teachers engaged in teaching merchandising in our high schools.

The Chairman of the Committee addressed ten general meetings in various sections of the State -- two in Chicago, three in Waukegan, two in Peoria, one in East St. Louis, one in Springfield, and one in Olney. The subjects discussed included community planning, synthetic rubber production , and the need of civilian production.

July 1943

Dean Chas. M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

COMMITTEE ON ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS

The activities of the Committee during the month of July were confined largely to civilian production.

Mr. Beshers, at the direction of the Committee Chairman, spent the major portion of his time visiting civilian production plants in an effort to discover first hand their most pressing problems and to advise on ways and means of solving these problems. He also assisted a Congressional sub-committee in its study of the petroleum situation in Illinois.

The Chairman of the Committee confined his attention to stimulating interest in civilian production by meeting with business groups and by discussing with them publicly the nature of the problem as it is presented to the American people.

The interest in this subject is reflected by an editorial in the Chicago Tribune, issue of Sunday, July 25. The point is made there, and well made, that the most effective brake against inflation is an increase in civilian goods. This is the position the Committee Chairman has held for more than a year.

It is the intention of the Committee to pursue the matter diligently during the months ahead. To that end Mr. Beshers will exert himself in a practical way among the civilian manufacturers of the State.

August 1943

Dean Chas. M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

COMMITTEE ON ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS

Committee activities for the month of August were confined in the main to a further study of unorganized (or occasional) travel by automobile, and to assisting the State Post-War Planning Commission, preliminary to its organization on September 15, 1943.

Mr. Beshers visited a number of manufacturing plants to good advantage. His intimate knowledge of production processes gave him an opportunity to suggest changes and improvements.

At the request of a governmental agency Mr. Beshers undertook a study of the effect of closing down war plants, partially or wholly, on local labor situations. This study reached over into September, and it may continue for several weeks.

Also, Mr. Beshers interviewed many persons in many communities concerning the need for motor transportation facilities of an occasional nature. His report on this matter will be presented to the Council at its September meeting.

The Chairman of the Committee gave practically all of his time and effort to his duties as Chairman of the Illinois Post-War Planning Commission.

September 1943

ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS COMMITTEE

Dean Charles M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Gov. Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

Report submitted by Paul C. Beshers:

The fore part of September was devoted to an industrial survey in the City of Decatur. During this time about fifty manufacturers were visited and the problem of civilian production was discussed. Of the total number of manufacturers visited, about one-half are in some sort of war production. Of the total volume, on dollars and cents basis, about seventy per cent is war production.

Most manufacturers are keenly alive to the fact that the war may end in the near future, and that they must get ready for a return to civilian production. Those manufacturers who have remained in civilian production, such as feed, food, and textiles, will have no conversion problems and should be able to continue without delay. Those who are in war production, and whose work is with other materials, such as metals, wood, etc., feel that they will have a considerable problem in readjusting themselves at the end of the war.

While this survey of industry has answered some questions, it has raised others. Among the most important of the questions raised is the question of the public's attitude toward new materials and new designs. An attempt should be made to determine the questions which would best reflect the public's attitude toward these new materials and designs, and an attempt to determine, if possible, the answers to these questions. A portion of this work can be done by contacts with retail outlets. For the final answer it is possible that some work may have to be done in the way of direct contacts with the consumer.

WAR WORK

I have been asked by several industrialists to help them locate additional grey iron casting capacity; also malleable iron casting capacity. So far, I have been unable to locate anyone who is willing to commit himself to any more production in grey iron. I have, however, located two concerns who say they are interested in malleable,- one at Mount Vernon, and the other at Metropolis. These should be re-visited within the next ten days or two weeks.

During this search for grey iron casting capacity I came in contact with a considerable number of stove manufacturers. Their work has been considered as civilian production, and on such grounds they have had limitation orders, ceiling prices, and such other barriers which prevented their full production. Replacement orders have been held off the market, both by the consumer, who is not satisfied with the "Victory Model," and by other circumstances which have built up an enormous back-log of necessary replacements, which are coming into the market this Fall in much larger numbers than ever before. The War Production Board, along with other agencies are trying at the present time to double stove production. However, at the present time the manpower situation is such that it looks like this will be impossible, and that there will be only about one-half as many stoves produced as will be needed to supply the market.

COMMITTEE ON ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS
(Submitted by Paul C. Beshers)
REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION

In view of the fact that as long as the war lasts the problem of transportation will become more and more acute, I think the War Council should consider the question of whether or not they should take part and try by some method to alleviate the situation.

The first restriction on travel by private automobile was based on the necessity for the conservation of rubber. At that time the stocks of natural rubber were running low and plants for the production of synthetic substitute had not as yet come into operation. At the present time the production of synthetic rubber has reached the point where it will be possible within two or three months to supply tires for all transportation. However, in the meantime plants of the large rubber companies which formerly made the tires have been converted to other production and will now have to be re-converted. There is also the question of man-power. During the period when rubber stocks were low men shifted from the production of tires to other jobs and many of the tire makers were drafted into the army. So while at the present time there is a sufficiency of raw material it will be necessary to re-convert tire manufacturing plants back to the job of building tires and to find and educate new personnel for that type of work.

During this time another difficulty has arisen which far over shadows the rubber situation at the present time. This difficulty is the production of petroleum. Because of the various government regulations hampering the discovery of new petroleum preserves and limiting the production of fields already discovered, the quantity of petroleum products available for the use of civilian population is very limited.

In view of the above situation it will be imperative that we use every means possible to make available to the public the transportation that remains. Public transportation, busses, railroads now have more than they can handle and it will require the use of the private automobile to the greatest possible extent to fill this gap.

To this end I would like to suggest a "Share the Ride" program, using the private automobile.

Should the Council wish to consider such a program there are questions such as identification of rider, identification of the car taking part in such a program and various other details necessary to the success of such a program to be worked out.

According to estimates secured by Mr. Flattery the cost of initiating such a program would be approximately $350.00.

Should the Council feel that it would be advisable for them to take part in or to sponsor such a program I shall be available at the time of the meeting for them to ask any questions that they see fit or submit any further information that I might have or that they may desire.

October 1943

ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS COMMITTEE

Dean Charles M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Governor Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

The activities of the Committee for the month of October were confined to making studies of labor conditions in Illinois cities. Especially detailed was a study made by Mr. Beshers in Decatur. Cooperating with the Chamber of Commerce of that city he was able to get a rather clear picture of the present labor situation and to forecast within reasonable limits how much and what kind of labor would be available with the coming of peace.

In the opinion of the Chairman of this Committee, a continued and continuous study of the labor situation of the State should be carried on by Mr. Beshers. A return to civilian production will be of necessity difficult, to say the least. To ease this difficulty our local Chambers of Commerce are looking to some State agency for advice and cooperation. The Committee on Adjustment of Business to War Conditions might very well be the best agency now at hand.

Because of the close relationship of the War Council and the Illinois Post-War Planning Commission it might be advisable for the Council to offer its good offices through the Committee to the Commission in this important matter of studying the labor situation throughout the State as it now is and as it may very well be when the war ends.

November 1943

ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS COMMITTEE

Dean Charles M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Governor Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

In line with Council action approving the suggestion of the Chairman of the Committee, that this Committee cooperate with the Labor Committee of the Illinois Post-War Planning Commission, the Chairman took twosteps. He instructed Mr. Beshers to make sample studies of the labor situation as it now is, and what it might fairly be expected to be with the coming of peace. This he is now doing. The Chairman undertook to supplement the work of Mr. Beshers by deciding what should be done and where to begin, and arranging proper contacts. Also, he held conferences during the month with numerous business groups throughout the State and discussed with them the problems that seem most likely to appear at the close of the war.

As a supplement to the above report the Chairman is appending a statement prepared by Mr. Beshers. This statement sets forth how a shift of the interest of the Committee is being made from war production to peacetime production. The statement follows:

This Committee has been functioning for almost two years. Its function has been twofold. First, war production; second, essential civilian production. With regard to war production, the first consideration has been securing the greatest amount of war work possible for Illinois manufacturers. This effort was directed at the war agencies, such as Ordnance Department, Quartermaster Department, Naval Procurement, War Production Board, and various other agencies engaged in the business of supplying our armed forces. This particular part of our effort is rapidly drawing to a close; almost the only contracts being let at the present time are renewals.

This work had many ramifications. The first step was to secure a prime contract for a manufacturer. The second was to locate a subcontractor to take on various portions of this work. Then arose the difficulty of finding tools, either new or used. Next came the difficulty of finding materials with which to do the job. It took many months to work out all these details and to arrive at a workable solution.

Naturally, in production of this kind those companies who are in the business of making tools are the first to be affected. The toolmakers received the first orders and have been busy for the longest time. Now their work is just about done, and they have reached the point where the tool market is saturated. Several of our largest toolmakers have already closed their doors, and others will presently follow. It is too early to know the type of tools which civilian production will require; also, it is unlikely that material could be had for building such tools immediately. Consequently, there seems to be little hope of business for these companies in the immediate future.

At the present time certain lines of munitions are in such abundant supply that it is doubtful if any more will be manufactured during this war. This has forced the cancellation of a considerable number of contracts. In other cases, where the contract has not been cancelled, it has been cut back to its original size. This has resulted in the prime contractor performing more of the operations, and in doing so he has reduced the number of sub-contracts, leaving many small manufacturers without work. The outlook for civilian goods is a little better. Some types of materials are becoming more plentiful. In a few months there will be more iron and steel available,- perhaps more aluminum. The bottleneck here is manpower. As long as the Army and Navy remain at their present size and continue to use the material at the rate they are now using them, there can be little hope for an increase in civilian goods, except in the most essential lines, such as farm machines, sanitary equipment and a few items of like nature.

This is the time when we must prepare for the reconversion from war production to a peacetime economy. The war in Europe has reached the stage, as one might say, where anything can happen. We must prepare for a long war, and at the same time recognize the fact that the Axis powers might collapse at any time. In view of this fact, the Committee should now expend its efforts on those problems which will confront us after the war.

One of the first things to consider will be the problem of reabsorbing our workers into peacetime jobs. In this connection the first thing required is a survey which will determine (1) the number that will be released following the war, and (2) the number of places available for them. With the foregoing information we can determine how far it will be necessary for us to go in our efforts toward rehabilitating the many businesses, both manufacturing and distributive, who have closed their doors during this period.

According to Department of Commerce figures, about 400,000 retail outlets have closed since the war commenced. These 400,000 retail outlets have left 400,000 vacant buildings scattered through the business sections of our towns. The exact figures for Illinois are not available, but we may presume that since Illinois has about 5 per cent of the population, they will participate in the other situation at the rate also of about 5 per cent, which will mean about 20,000 for the State. Over a period of a year or two these empty buildings will have a tendency to group themselves in our cities. This will be the beginning of a so-called "blighted area". This problem should be given immediate consideration in order to prevent properties losing their value and destroying the value of properties surrounding them, which will in turn create problems in taxation and be a burden to the whole community.

It seems that the most logical procedure for this Committee would be to work in close collaboration with the Post-War Planning Commission, and do many of the things which the Commission has neither the money nor the personnel to do. For example, at the present time we are making a labor survey of about six counties in the State, these counties located in widely separated regions to take in as many different types of manufacturing, agriculture, and other situations as

possible. It is hoped that this will serve as a spot check, and by projecting percentages will give us a fairly clear picture of the State. This survey should be completed by the first of March when figures will be submitted and other data and comments to interpret the findings.

It might be well to take two examples of the many things to be done and consider them in detail. These examples are not necessarily the most important, but they do affect as great a number of people perhaps as any we might examine. The first will be in relation to agriculture. We have had an agricultural problem with us for a great many years. As occurs during all wartime periods, we are now boosting our agricultural production to its limit. This production will be needed during the war and perhaps for a couple of years following the war, or until such time as devastated areas can be returned to production. As has always been the case heretofore, and we may assume as will be the case now, this will result in a period of farm surpluses. It seems that now is the time to begin our studies, or rather to coordinate the studies of various groups who are seeking new uses for farm products. The one item from the farm that creates our greatest surplus is starch. If new methods can be discovered for the use of starch we will accomplish much toward solving our agricultural problem.

We have in the State of Illinois one of the six regional laboratories financed and operated by the United States Department of Agriculture which is working along these lines. This laboratory does not contain all the apparatus that could be used in these investigations. Take, for instance, the problem of starch. Not very much is known of its atomic structure. By coordinating the efforts and use of apparatus, it may be possible to solve some of these problems. As a definite illustration, the Federal Laboratory in Peoria does not have a cyclotron. The University of Illinois does have. By the use of radio active carbon, radio active chlorine, and other substances which have been very recently discovered it may be possible to determine the structure of the starch atom. The Federal Laboratory at Peoria and other commercial laboratories have indicated that they would be glad to enter into such a program if they had someone to supervise it. This investigation should lay the ground work upon which new industries using starch could be founded. Another very specific example are the forests of Illinois. The Bureau of Forestry reports that with proper forestry practice the timber in Illinois could be harvested at the rate of 12 to 15 million feet annually in saw logs. Illinois contains many specialty woods. These specialty woods are not concentrated in any one region, but are found scattered through the forests. Most of our timber is cut by small mills that are not in the position to concentrate these specialty woods in a large enough quantity to take advantage of their value. Immediately after the war we will need lumber in great quantities to speed our construction problem. Many people have the feeling that this construction program will be the program to fill the gap between war and peace. Logging operations have reached such a low level and lumber stocks depleted to such an extent that it will be from 12 months to 2 years before stocks can be replenished to the extent which would support any very large program. An intensive study of this problem should be made at once. It is quite possible that this study will reveal how the income from lumber operations in the State can be greatly increased. In

fact, many people connected with the industry believe that such income could be easily doubled. This would be an enormous assistance to many of our poorest areas, particularly in the southern part of the State.

It is hoped that the above examples and their discussion will point the way to the most valuable use of the knowledge so far gained by this Committee. These examples could be multiplied many times over, but to enumerate all of them would be tiresome and superfluous.

January 1944

ADJUSTMENT OF BUSINESS TO WAR CONDITIONS COMMITTEE

Dean Charles M. Thompson, Chairman
Lt. Governor Hugh W. Cross
Mr. Stuart Duncan

The work of this Committee is now centered on gathering information concerning the probable demands for labor and equipment following the close of the war. These demands are closely related. It is important, for instance, to know just what the typical farmer plans to do in order to maintain high production levels. Will he, when he can, increase the labor on his farm, or will he turn to an increased use of machinery?

This work, as now being carried on, consists of two parts, and, under the general direction of the Chairman of the Committee, it is in the hands of two employees of the Council. One of these employees, Mr. Beshers, has completed a study of Freeport and Stephenson County and now is making similar studies in other counties in the central areas of the State. From these samplings we expect to be able to arrive at rather definite conclusions concerning the absorbing capacity of the State insofar as labor and commodities are concerned. Mr. Beshers has presented his results at a recent meeting of the Post-War Planning Commission. Mr. Sadorus, who assisted the Chairman for more than a year in his work of helping business men adjust themselves to war conditions, has been assigned the duties of making similar surveys in typical rural counties. Like Mr. Beshers, he is gathering information concerning both labor needs and material needs.

In view of the situation, the Committee can do little more to assist in meeting war conditions. Its objective, from this point on, should be to assist in meeting the conditions arising when peace comes to the State.